

House GOP Talking Points EDUCATION



Ten Things Every Republican Should Know about President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act

1. Under NCLB, states (not the federal government) identify schools as needing improvement – using state standards, not federal standards.
2. The term “failing schools” does not appear anywhere in NCLB.
3. Under NCLB, schools identified by their states as needing improvement are not “punished;” they immediately qualify for extra help, including additional funding and technical assistance.
4. NCLB reduced the number of federal K-12 education programs from 55 – 45. (There were 55 different programs under the Elementary & Secondary Education Act of 1965 prior to NCLB, which reauthorized ESEA.)
5. NCLB explicitly bans a national education test for all students, and explicitly bans a national teacher certification test.
6. The House Democratic Leadership's official budget for FY 2005 does not come anywhere close to so-called “full funding” of NCLB.

(continued on reverse)

7. State officials in Senator John Kerry's own state of Massachusetts have publicly concluded NCLB is adequately funded. The nonpartisan General Accounting Office (GAO) has also officially ruled NCLB is NOT an unfunded mandate.
8. Official government data shows federal education aid to states has been increasing more quickly than states can actually spend the money. As of June 2004, states had more than \$16 billion in unspent federal education funding from fiscal years 2000 through 2003, with more than \$500 million still remaining from the Clinton administration.
9. Thanks to No Child Left Behind, an estimated 160,000 children and their families took advantage of new educational options during the 2002-03 school year.
10. It's working. Students in America's big city schools are making big gains in reading and math – and urban school leaders (Council of the Great City Schools) credit the gains partly to NCLB. More than 100 Black and Hispanic superintendents say weakening NCLB would 'turn back the clock' on educating disadvantaged students.

For more information about NCLB, please visit <http://edworkforce.house.gov> or call Emily Porter at (202) 225-4527.